

BIRTHS.

COOPER (née Olive Thorp).—On October 5th, to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cooper, a son, Robert Craig.
 RIPLEY (née L. Beatty).—On August 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Ripley a son, William Thornton.
 MAXWELL (née Kathleen Orr).—On September 19th, to Rev. C. H. and Mrs. Maxwell, a son, Ian Charles.

MARRIAGES.

WEST-SYMES—ADDISON.—On August 14th, 1917, at St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley, by the Rev. J. S. Addison, father of the bridegroom, George Stewart, second son of the Rev. J. S. and Mrs. Addison, of Newchurch-in-Rossendale, to Evelyn Spence West, youngest daughter of the late E. West-Symes, M.D., and Mrs. West-Symes, of Ilkley.
 WILKINSON—SCOTT MALDEN.—On September 1st, 1917, at St. Dunstan's, Cheam, Surrey, Gilbert Scott Malden to Phyllis Dorothy Wilkinson.

DEATH.

HUDSON.—On December 27th, after a brief illness, at St. Luke's Rectory, Cheetham, Manchester, Cecilia Ruth (née Ogden) beloved wife of the Rev. Francis Hudson, Rector of the Parish.

NOTICES.

The S.E.C. have suggested that papers on "Social Work and its Problems" would be very helpful to us all at this time, especially to those who have the teaching and training of older girls. The Editor would be grateful for papers sent in on any of the following subjects: Housing, Work, Unemployment, Wages, Lack of Rational and Pure Amusements, Education. It is also suggested that letters of criticism and discussion bearing on points in the various papers would be most interesting and helpful.

An appeal has been made that a small portion of L'UMILE

PIANTA shall be given up to the mothers amongst us, and this seems to the Editor only fair. A very great deal could be learnt from the mothers if they would give the benefit of their sound advice and experience to their fellow-students, so any contributions and hints from them will be published all together directly after the letters, under the heading, "Mothers in Council."

Miss Bernau has very kindly said that she would be willing to help any students and their pupils with their Books of Centuries. If they will write to her at 8, Chenies Street Chambers, W.C. 1, she will try to arrange a day to visit them.

It is proposed to engage at Easter an ex-student of the House of Education to work with Miss Parish in introducing a liberal education for all into elementary and other schools. Applications are invited from ex-students whom this work would attract, and should be made to the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, 50, Porchester Terrace, London, W. 2.

The following students have resigned their membership of the Ambleside Old Students' Association: Mrs. Albrechtson, Mrs. Williamson, P. C. Kinnear and E. M. Gayford, and the following not having paid their subscriptions for three years are considered to have resigned: E. M. Brookes, M. E. Baines, M. R. Clark and Mrs. Bolland. Mrs. Tovey and Miss K. Osborn have joined the Association.

Several very interesting articles and letters have had to be held over till the next number for lack of space.

The next number of L'UMILE PIANTA will appear on March 15th. All communications must reach the Editor (Brawith Hall, Thirsk, Yorks) by February 15th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE.

The following students have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1917. Those marked with an asterisk owe for 1916 as well: *J. J. Aitken, G. T. Bradford, Mrs. Dudley Smith, *M. Glenny, H. Lundblad, *Mrs. Walton, D. Rohde, M. D. Whittall, Mrs. Ripley, A. A. M. Beck, K. Deck, *J. V. Good, E. L. Mulloney, D. Nesbitt, Mrs. Esslemont, Mrs. Scott-Malden, Mrs. Evans, J. C. Brooke-Gwynne, Mrs. Evan Campbell, Mrs. Versfeld, G. Newman, Mrs. Wentworth-Thompson, M. H. Witherow, G. M. Bradley, D.

Cowan, H. M. Fountain, M. P. Jameson, E. Maud, M. O. Paterson, M. Wilkinson, J. Wilkinson.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

Owing to increased railway fares, and difficulties of travelling generally, and also, doubtless, to the increased demand on one's time, the Students' Meetings latterly have been very poorly attended. The Committee have thought of many ways in which the attendance might be improved, and have decided through the coming year to aim at one good meeting each term, rather than at one each month. We hope that by this means students will concentrate all their efforts on the one, and that all who are within reasonable distance of Craven Road will keep that afternoon free. The January meeting will, of course, have been held in the ordinary course before the magazine is published; the other meetings of the year will be held on the first Saturdays of March, July, and November, at 3.30, at 27, Craven Road, and will all who hope to be present please remember to send a postcard to that effect to Misses Faunce and Evans, as it saves them much trouble and often unnecessary expense when they have some idea of how many they may expect to tea. So will students bear these Saturdays in mind, and turn up in their numbers when they come along?

Subscriptions for 1918 are now due, and I shall be glad to receive them as soon as possible. It is really much easier to pay at the beginning of the year than at the end, and with the increased cost of printing, etc., our income is inclined to be outweighed by our expenditure, and we need the money more than ever before. We should be sorry to have to curtail the number of magazines in the year. The "black list" is a much longer one than I like; but I hope that those students will send the two years' subscription in one, so that arrears may be made up.

Please send all subscriptions to me at 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

LILIAN GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

REPORT OF THE S.E.C. MEETING.

HELD AT 28, YORK STREET CHAMBERS,
OCTOBER 17TH, 1917.

The first business to be done was to elect a successor to Miss Wix, who has had to give up the post of Editor of the PLANT owing to stress of work. A hearty vote of thanks was passed for all her splendid work for the magazine. Miss Janet Smith was elected Editor in her place, and we wish her every success.

The next point raised was that of a war memorial, by which we students, as an association, can commemorate the war. Those of us who were there felt that we should like the memorial to be a lasting one, and one that would be closely connected with Scale How, and with the war as well. One or two suggestions were forthcoming, but we hope before long to be able to lay some definite plan before students that we hope will meet with general approval.

Another suggestion brought before the Committee was that there should be a Roll of Honour of ex-pupils of the P.U.S. who are serving in the war. We thought if each student would send the names of those whom she may know, with the date when they were in the school, and also the regiment in which they are serving or have served, if it be that they have already given their lives for their country, that we should be able to get a fairly accurate list. Miss Bernau has kindly undertaken to compile the list from information sent, so will students please send direct to her at 8, Chenies Street Chambers, W.C. 1.

The question of Life Membership was also discussed, but we felt that this needed a lot of thought, and that it would be a good subject to discuss at the next Conference.

LILIAN GRAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

SCALE HOW MISSION FUND.

Last year seventy-one students sent subscriptions to the above fund, the total amount being £2 12s. 6d. This is more than the previous year, when the total was £2 4s.; so I hope we shall go on progressing in 1918.

Half of the money has already been sent to Miss Janet Smyth, for her work in the girls' school at Gayaza, Uganda, but as Mrs. Esslemont has left the Girls' Club, near Waterloo Road, I have not sent the other half to her.

Will each student, when sending her subscription for 1918, say to what object she would like the *home* part of the fund applied, and I will send to that for which I get the greatest number of requests. Most students seem to feel that the money should be used for work in which a *Student* is engaged.

Please everyone send me a subscription when you get this January PLANT, even if it is only a shilling.

W. KITCHING.

LETTERS.

3, St. David's Avenue,
Bexhill, Sussex,
December, 1917.

DEAR FELLOW STUDENTS,

The subject of some means by which we, as students, could commemorate the war has been brought forward, and much thought has been given to it by the Committee.

Two main suggestions have been forthcoming—one being that we should collect a sum of money and invest it so that the interest should form a bursary which could be used either in helping some student to pay for her training at Scale How, or go towards keeping a child in the Practising School; and the other, that we should build a private chapel for Scale How, where prayers could be said morning and evening, and where students could go any time they wished for quiet thought. The beauty of this form of memorial is that every student would share its benefits equally, and that we ex-students would also share the same whenever we happened to be in Ambleside at conferences or at any other time. This idea appeals to Miss Mason very strongly, and she already sees the little chapel made beautiful by the hand-work of students themselves; and we cannot help feeling that it will appeal to students generally in the same way.

We think that a sum of £400 would be quite a possible one to aim at: this would average out at about 25s. per head. Some students probably would not feel that they

could give so much; but on the other hand, others might be able to give more. We feel that all will be able to spare the money more easily now than at some more distant date, so we propose that all contributions should be sent, if possible, before Easter. Miss W. Kitching has kindly undertaken to act as treasurer to the fund, so will all students send their contributions direct to her at 18, Hastings Road, Ealing, W. 13, at the same time stating which of the two schemes they prefer. We shall then have some idea of the sum at our disposal, and of the manner in which the majority would like the money laid out.

We hope that the response to this appeal will be widespread and generous, so that there may be a lasting reminder at Scale How of this great war, and that it may stand as a token of gratitude for all that we owe to our training whilst there.

On behalf of the Committee, I am, yours very sincerely,
LILIAN GRAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

Scale How, Ambleside,
December 4th.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

As you cast your eye over this letter please forgive its formidable length, but there seems to be an unusual amount to say.

The first thing I can imagine your asking is: "How did the professor's visit come off?" Considering the circumstances I think we were all as happy as could be wished, and survived our final crits without any exhibitions of stage-fright. Each lesson was heard separately this year, and limited to twenty minutes. We were lucky in having Mr. de Burgh, who, with his sympathetic insight and genial sense of humour, has that rare quality of making people feel at their ease with him at once. If space allows I will add a resumé of the lecture he gave us.

The dancing this year was obviously a credit to Miss Boxshall, who has taken endless trouble in giving us many extra lessons.

Mr. Phillips seemed more than satisfied with the handicrafts, but while the leather work and painting were above the average, the bookbinding was below.

The standard for nature diaries has been unusually high.

Almost everyone has entered into the spirit of nature work with a whole-hearted love, inspired by Miss Drury. Her lessons are red-letter days to which we look forward with impatience.

We have been going to very interesting University Extension Lectures on Russia, and most of us have been doing the First Aid Course.

Just now we are busy getting up a Punch and Judy show to entertain the children on the same night that they are doing a play for us. People are also mysteriously occupied with preparations for the fancy dress dance on the last Monday of term.

Half-term this year was strangely like its anniversary a year ago. A sinister mist hung over us all day, but the damp weather by no means damped our spirits. Till this week we have been enjoying mild, almost May-like weather, and the autumn trees were undoubtedly "dressed in the colour of embers."

Perhaps that expression is familiar to some of you. It was the dress worn by the angel in the "Hour Glass," by W. B. Yeats, which we acted at Hallow-e'en. It lends itself better for acting than any other play by him that I know, though its serious character as a morality play would not make it so suitable for children's acting. I can thoroughly recommend it, if only for reading.

The little sixpenny book gives you the story of the agnostic sage who convinces his pupils, his family and neighbours, that God and heaven do not exist. Unexpectedly an angel appears to him, telling him he must die and cannot enter heaven unless within an hour he finds someone who still believes. Distraught and anxious, the old man vainly beseeches all he meets to say that they still have faith, but his teaching has undermined all.

In reality it is not the sage, but Teigue, the fool, on whom the attention centres all through the play. With his transparent simplicity and childlike common-sense he is a creation never to be forgotten. In desperation the old man appeals to him, and his mind is set at rest by the wisdom of the fool. The angel carries his redeemed soul to heaven, and his pupils find him dead but serene.

Hallow-e'en could not pass without the traditional skits on Scale How. Among the ones we acted was a pageant

showing Scale How in Prehistoric and Assyrian days; in the Dark Ages studying astronomy and in the days of Locke as true disciples of naturalism.

With the appearance of THE MAN (the professor impersonated by Miss Coombes) everyone was thrown into consternation. The audience had a glimpse of the workshop, with frantic toilers tearing their hair. Then the modulator marched across the stage to a fantasia of the sol-fa tunes we have learnt this year, a hand beating time.

Mademoiselle (?) gave a highly instructive lesson on Blasé Pascal qui était le plus grand fabricant de bonbons que le monde ait jamais vu. Il a inventé le twopenny tube de mercure et l'omnibus, dans lequel il eut un accident fatal avec le poète Voiture.

This was followed by an edifying health lecture from Miss Williams, on high heels. Unfortunately a slight hitch occurred when Mr. de Burgh, after holding up the model slipper of Miss Williams and an ultra "Louis XIV" belonging, I regret to say, to one of the students, he returned them to the wrong owners, and Miss Williams being too well-bred to remark on it, had to limp for the rest of the lesson.

The last lecture ended with an injunction to "eat what is put before you," which accounted for the rapid disappearance of the turnips that Miss Sumner had brought in as painting models.

After a bird walk and a "geog trot," the students filed past Miss Williams and the S.M., and were dosed by the housekeeper and cook, and the unusually stirring events of the day ended with a vision of the youngest member of the college withdrawing into the bathroom, where she was besieged with abusive language by dozens of impatient applicants bearing labels with their nicknames on their backs.

The drawing-room evenings this term have included three musicals, one on "Animals in Literature," by Miss Pope; on "Lichfield," by Miss Moir; "Glimpses into Irish Life," by Miss Phyllis Williams; and "Tolstoi," by Miss Brockman. This last was so much appreciated that we were glad to hear it a second time, when Mrs. Franklin and her daughter, Dr. Franklin, came for a week-end.

Miss Brockman also gave us a paper on "Swinburne

for Poetry Club," and we had one on the modern war poet, Siegfried Sassoon, from Miss Boston.

Two of us acted D. G. Rossetti's "Sister Helen" for Miss Parish when she paid us a flying visit. The poem is easy to dramatize, and when acted in the dark before a large fire is very effective.

In after years that fire in the classroom will call to mind how happily we spent many a winter's evening round its cheery blaze, laughing and talking, or having educational discussions, while Miss Moore's playing of Brahms, Beethoven, and Sibelius is ringing in our ears.

It makes all the difference having a pianist amongst us who can make us rejoice with her in music that is good, instead of jarring "rag-times." She is a boon and a blessing, and we are very grateful to her.

Another thing we shall always look back to with pleasure is the record of two happy years unruffled by a single quarrel among any of us. This tone of complete good fellowship among so many different temperaments in such close companionship is chiefly due to the influence of those "two women in a thousand." I cannot tell all of you who have been here in former years how much it is to be regretted that you could not share with us the friendship of our unique S.M. and J.M.

It is not the platitude it sounds to add how sorry we all are that our student days have gone so quickly, because we are one and all intensely sincere in saying so. Neither is it boasting to say that Scale How has changed us all for the better; we are more unselfish, more purposeful, and the atmosphere and living interests of Scale How have drawn us out of ourselves and the tendency to dwell morbidly on the war.

With Christmas greetings to you all from

THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

c/o Mrs. King,
Abbeylands, Sherborne, Dorset.
September 28th, 1917.

MY DEAR MISS MASON,

I have had a delightful six weeks in Inverness-shire in the Glengarry district, doing forestry on the Invergarry Estate.

Our work was in a large pine wood. In the spring the men had thinned out the smallest trees, and we had to cross-cut the same, take their measurements down in lineal feet and diameter, and after helping to pile them on to wagons, drive them one mile to the station, where they were sent off as pit-props to Newcastle.

Sometimes we did felling, which was quite thrilling. The trees were all well over forty feet high, and all forty years old. We learnt many interesting things from the forester about the valuation of trees, and how to find the height of a tree as it stands. I had no idea that forestry was such a fascinating subject.

I have also learnt to see the workman's point of view as I never did before. We began work at 8 a.m., worked till 12, when we had our lunch in the wood and rested till 1 o'clock, then continued until 5.30. We had all our own cooking to do, and lived in a tiny cottage, with a kitchen and two attic bedrooms. We shared it with two lady gardeners who were working in the Mansion House garden. We earned 16s. a week, and received coal, milk, vegetables and the cottage free. Our half-day was on Saturday from 12 o'clock.

The men had no half-day, and worked from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. We found them extremely nice to work with. They were all real Highlanders, and were always so courteous and considerate to us.

It has been an interesting experience. I hope to do it again.—Yours, etc.,

EMILY M. SOMERVILLE.

November 3rd, 1917.

DEAR —

The children and I are most anxious to tell you of the lovely afternoon and evening we had here yesterday, when we had a Hallow-e'en party for all the P.U.S. children we could collect from this district, and we are only sorry that we did not get all of them to put their names to this letter. There were seventeen children and six Ambleside students present, Miss Moffatt and Jane Thorneycroft coming all the way from Stirling in spite of having to leave soon after five

to catch their train home. Joan, Betty, and Jean Hood, Euphrane, Kathleen, and John Richardson, Alison and Moray MacLagan, Joan and Henry Ford, Ivan Findlay, Elsa Abernethy, and the four Lawries themselves, Eva, Ada, James, and Alice, Miss Mucklow, Wilkinson, Strachan, and Macdonald, all managed to come.

The children were so very happy together, and it seemed such a splendid way to make them realize that they belong to a great big school. They seemed so different from other children, so natural and friendly, as if they were old friends meeting! And they had all sorts of interesting things to talk about.

When the party had arrived they all drew little cards from a basket. The cards had been painted beforehand by Eva, Ada, James, and Alice. On them were wild flowers or their fruits, as, for example, a wild rose on one card, and a rose hip on the other. Each child had thus to find his partner for tea, either the fruit or the flower as the case might be.

After tea we all came up to the schoolroom, where ducking for apples, balancing in a clothes basket, hitting bags of nuts blindfold, etc., took place. At the same time I was sitting in a tent, in a little dark room, dressed as an old witch, to tell fortunes. The great joy to me was that many of the little ones went home believing that they had seen a real witch, and full of wonder as to where she came from, and where she had gone to!

Later we went to the drawing-room, where the carpet had been taken up, and had dancing and games, until all too soon our friends found it was time for them to go home.—Yours, etc.,

PHYLLIS N. BOWSER.

The Old Grammar School,
Woodstock, Oxon.
December 11th, 1917.

DEAR EDITOR,

It has been suggested to me that I should write and tell you the following, on the chance that other groups of P.U.S. children might be able to do something of the same kind.

I knew that in the Derbyshire village where Miss Gertrude Bell (who is known to so many of us) has a post, the whole village school had fairly lately joined the P.U.S. Their difficulty is a not at all uncommon one in such a case—namely, how to meet the book bill.

My class has just given a public entertainment for the Red Cross and other charitable objects, and we also sent a donation to the book fund of the school mentioned, for which Miss Bell's own pupils, with the village children, are themselves giving a play this week. There are a good many such schools longing to join us; and if those who already belong, either in families or in private schools, could set out definitely to try and help those who want so much to come in, and who are at present prevented, in part at least, by a cause such as this, I am sure their efforts would be more than appreciated, and that they would be doing the country a real service.

In this magazine, at least, this last statement needs absolutely no explanation whatever!

As a way of bringing home to one's pupils the fact that they do not by any means make the P.U.S., or that the P.U.S. is not a name for them alone, such a plan works wonders; and the pleasure the children have in doing something for their unknown schoolfellows is very great.—Yours sincerely,

KATHLEEN M. CLENDINNEN.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have the following second-hand books for sale at half-price: Lyra Heroica, First History of France (two copies), English History from Original Sources (Book 2), Ball Games (by A. R. James), Ballads Old and New, Practical Geometry (by Hall & Stevens), Story of King Alfred, Bué's First French book, Oliver's Botany, Laws of Everyday Life, Industries of Animals, Ambleside Geography (books 1, 2 copies; 2 and 3).—Yours sincerely,

G. M. BERNAU.

THE BOTTICELLI PICTURES.

Six pictures by Sandro Botticelli! What a possibility! What a world of romance the mere sound of the words